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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Railroad and Transportation Workers' Hospital - Moscow

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1. If you were to undergo surgery at the railroad and transportation workers' hospital on the edge of Moscow, five chances out of six a woman surgeon would do the job.
2. [REDACTED] went to this particular hospital to try to get an idea of how the hospital system works.
3. We found a modern institution of 720 beds and spent an hour and a half with Dr. V H Zakharchenko, who briefed us on what the hospital facilities were and took us on a tour of the institution. Of the 114 doctors connected with the hospital, 80 per cent are women. Was there a reason for that, I discreetly inquired? And the answer, according to the doctor, was in the affirmative. Medicine, he said, was a good profession for women to follow for gentleness is required and women are naturally gentle.
4. In the surgery, which we visited, we found the department "manned" by five women surgeons and one man who was the department head. We met some of the women and they were as attractive as the superintendent said they were skillful.
5. After you have been there for a few days and see the various jobs that women do, including street sweeping and barbering, it doesn't at all seem strange to find them in such professions as medicine.
6. All of the rooms we saw were multi-bedrooms. There were, the superintendent said, a few single ones but they were kept for the more seriously ill.
7. We asked him if the doctors here followed the new plan, such as is practiced in the US, of getting operated cases on their feet as quickly as possible. "We order them to walk after the third day", he said. For surgery, he said, they use mostly local anesthetics.
8. There was one room that was particularly interesting. It was for nursing babies of sick mothers.

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9. The doctor was very gracious. At the conclusion of our visit, he thanked us for our interest and expressed the hope that such contacts would bring a better feeling between his country and ours.
10. The hospital was located on spacious, well-landscaped grounds and was obviously a show place. Besides the 114 doctors, it had the services of 250 nurses.

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